

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

1. Amendments to Claims/Claim Objections/112 Rejection

Claims 1-6 and 12 have been canceled.

Claims 7, 10, and 16 have been amended to overcome the objections set forth in item 2 on page 2 of the Official Action, as follows:

- Each of the independent claims has been amended to define “TTL” as –time-to-live (TTL)– and to include the word “and” before the last limitation.
- The last paragraph of claim 10 has been restored to its original form, the discrepancies between the original version and the version presented in the last response being solely due to word processing errors. So that the Examiner can determine exactly what was changed, underlining and strikeouts have been used to indicate current changes with respect to the *original* claim language.

In addition, claims 10, 11, and 16 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, 2nd Paragraph set forth in item 3 on pages 2-3 of the Official Action, as follows:

- Claim 10 has been amended to delete the unnecessary variables k, V, and R, which stand for “a plurality,” “values,” and “associated ratios” already spelled-out in the claim.
- Claim 11 has been amended to delete the objected-to word “like.”
- Claim 16 has been amended to correct the antecedence error by positively reciting the TTL field.

Having thus overcome the claim objections and rejection under 35 USC §112, 2nd Paragraph, withdrawal of the objections and Section 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

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Because the amendments to the claims are all formal in nature and do not change the scope of the claims, entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

2. Rejection of Claims 1-6 and 12 Under 35 USC §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0172289 (Soppera)

This rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-6 and 12.

Having thus overcome each of the objections and rejections made in the Official Action, expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 28, 2008

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